



"Protecting and Preserving Lands and Landmarks"

Report to the Membership

Volume 14, Issue 2
Spring 2004

NORTHCENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA CONSERVANCY

River Conservation Plan to be Reviewed

The Lower West Branch Susquehanna River Conservation Plan was submitted to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for their review. DCNR will ensure that NPC and the Steering Committee met the terms of the grant contract and also the terms of the river conservation program. NPC will need to provide copies of the meeting notices, information relating to the public comments, and copies of resolutions supporting listing of the river segment on the Pennsylvania River Registry.

Municipalities and groups are already working to implement various concepts in the plan. Jersey Shore Borough applied in October for a grant to study the feasibility of developing a riverwalk in the Borough. Castanea Township (Clinton County) was already working on a master plan for its park, and is beginning design work for specific elements. The Lewisburg Area Recreation Authority is well underway with a greenway study for the three municipalities it serves.

Lycoming College, through its CleanWater Institute is applying for funding to continue water quality monitoring of the lower West Branch at the established monitoring sites. A new component with this grant is that Lycoming College and Bucknell University will be working together how the monitoring is conducted and to provide

River Conservation continued on page 3.

Funding Awarded for Planning Process

NPC was recently awarded a \$2,000 mini-grant from the Williamsport-Lycoming Foundation for assistance with visioning and planning for NPC's future. The grant will be used toward the cost of hiring a consultant to work with the NPC Board of Directors to refine NPC's vision and develop a strategic plan for the next five years.

The need for this grant became clear in the autumn of 2003. In September, the NPC Board of Directors met for its annual planning retreat. One of the primary topics of discussion was the need for a new strategic plan. NPC

has been operating on a five-year strategic plan that has provided the organization with direction for the last four years; it will expire at the end of 2004.

The board decided that it is important to have access to a consultant with expertise in issues specifically faced by land trusts and other conservation organizations. The grant funding awarded to NPC will help provide that expertise to guide the board's work on a strategic plan.

NPC has seen tremendous growth in the last fourteen years. Since NPC was founded in 1990, we have permanently conserved over 8,400 acres of land, worked with our communities to develop conservation plans for waterways in our region, and helped provide funding for volunteer cleanups. Every week, we receive

Funding Awarded continued on page 4.

"What a country chooses to save is what a country chooses to say about itself."

~ Mollie Beatty, Director,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1993-1996

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, or CREP, is a federal cost share program that provides funding for activities such as tree planting, or restoring areas into native grasses. The goal of the program is to take marginal areas, or sensitive areas out of crop production or grazing and work to restore them.

NPC and PPL are working cooperatively to establish a forested streamside buffer on over 120 acres of PPL property along Chilisquaque Creek in Montour County. Beginning this spring, native grasses, trees and shrubs will be planted in various areas to help stabilize the stream bank and provide shade for the stream. As the project progresses, there may be opportunities to help with tree plantings, or to take a tour of the area and learn more about the program.



Inside:
<i>Membership Activity</i>
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<i>Letter from the Chairman</i>
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<i>...and more!</i>

Membership Activity from 1/1/2004 through 2/29/2004

Please take note of our **CORPORATE MEMBERS** who have shown they care about the future of our communities with their corporate membership, and show YOUR support to them.

Osprey (\$1,000-1,999)

Alpine Club of Williamsport

American Kestrel (\$500-749)

First Columbia Bank & Trust
Lyc. Co. Conservation District
Lycoming Co. Planning Commission
Stubler Enterprises, Inc.
Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Woodlands Bank

Small Business (\$100-499)

Bald Eagle Township
Jersey Shore Hospital
Larson Design Group Inc.
Lonza Inc.
Parente Randolph PC
PMF Industries Inc.
Radiant Steel Products Co.
Ralph S. Alberts Co., Inc.
Sovereign Bank
Sun Bank
Zimmer Insurance Agency Inc.

Black Bear (\$500-999)

Gordon & Margie Shaw

White-tailed Deer (\$250-499)

Richard & Adrienne Craig
Chris Dwyer

Black Cherry (\$100-249)

Dr. Thomas Aufiero &
Dr. Suzan McGary
Malcolm Barlow,

Muncy Farms

Robert W. Colley, Hoyer's
Photo Supply Inc.
Gary & Susan Harris

Gilbert L. Maton
Robert W. McCullough
William & Nancy Pfeiffer
Pine Creek Headwaters Protection Group
Pine Creek Preservation Association
Anne Rice & Rick Matukonis
H. Kenneth & Marilyn G. Ruhf
W. Bruce Saunders
Louis S. Winner Jr. DDS PA

Red Oak (\$50-99)

Dr. & Mrs. David Ambrose
R. Jeffrey Coup
R. Max Coy

Boyer & Elinor Kantz
Charlie Lockard
William & Susan Martens
Kevin L. McJunkin &
Marianne Tillotson
Shawn McLaughlin
Jim & Anne Meyer
Joseph A. Pecchia
Michael J. Piccuta MD
Karen Rush
Carolee & Dick Thatcher
David J. & Linda M. Ward
Dan & Margery Wurster

Sugar Maple (\$35-49)

Eila & Jack Campbell
Joseph & Ginny English
Dave & Roxanne McMillan
Max Mitchell
Dean W. Selfe
Mark & Betsy Smith
Barbara Sonies
Linda & Mike Tate
Andrea Young

White Pine (\$25-34)

Rob Barbour
Tom Bossert
R. Lowell Coolidge
Mike Crist
James A. Drobile Esq.
Alissa du Bois
Larry & Maggie Emery
Ted & Lee Fenno

Donald G. Holtzman
Charley & Lisa Hooper
Dr. Lester G. Kleckner
Michael D. Miller
Stash & Helene Nawrocki
Robert & Leah Oberheim
Gary E. Packer
Howard Parks
Mr. & Mrs. Chester Pribble
Deborah Reeder
Clifford A. Rieders
Jerry & Melinda Updegraff
Donald & Vera Visscher
Wellsboro Area Chamber of Commerce
Barry & Jann Yontz

General Contributions

Jim & Anne Meyer

Loyalsock Creek Watershed Memorial Fund

Honorariums

Chris Dwyer by Leslie & Adrienne Noelk

Donation to DRF Endowment

Gladys Lewis

Donation to Alfred & Helen Buck Land Acquisition Fund

Alfred Buck

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Annual Appeal Update and Donor Recognition

Our most sincere thanks to all who contributed to this year's Annual Appeal (see list below). This appeal is a vital source of operational funding. If you have not already contributed to this very important appeal, it is not too late! Your gift could push our goal over the top. For more information or to make a gift, please contact the NPC office at 570-323-6222.

Jay & Juli Alexander
Donald & Ann Alsted
Malcolm Barlow
Mike & Donna Bastian
John & Susan Best
Jennie S. Beyer
Herman & Rita Bocher
Patty L. Bowman Esq.
Eila & Jack Campbell
Blair & Mary Carbaugh
Richard & Grace Carey
James D. & Maria C. Casale
Donald E. Clark
Steve & Rita Confair
R. Lowell Coolidge
David & Sally Craig
Cromaglass Corp./
Allan N. Young
Duane & Denise Daniels
Michael & Mary Ditchfield
Fred W. Dochter
Merrill J. & Dorothy F. Dodge
Mrs. Anne Donnelly
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Robert J. & Claramae Glunk
Mr. & Mrs. Law Groner
Brian & Angela Haas
William B. Heffner III
Charles W. Hummer Sr.
Jersey Shore State Bank
Ronald & Martina Johnson
Susan Joshi
Oscar W. Knade Jr.
Frances Kuntz
Wayne Laubscher
Gladys E. Lewis
Dr. Bob Little III & Amie Little
Charlie Lockard
William Logue

Willem J. & Tamara D. Lubbe
Ms. Idell Ludwig
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Lyon Jr.
Roger A. Madigan
Bobby Maguire/Mountain Stone & Carved Rocks
Gilbert L. Maton
Ray & Shelly Mattie
C. Edward S. Mitchell
Linda C. Murray
Leslie & Adrienne Noelk
Michael J. Piccuta MD
Joseph H. Radley
Stephen & Stephanie Radulski
James & Cheryl Redmond
Patricia A. Reeder
Restless Oaks Restaurant
Anne Rice & Rick Matukonis
John & Marguerite G. Rich
Jack & Joann Rishel
Carl W. Schlappi
Rich & Beth Schluter
Charles & Helen Schwarz
Dean W. Selfe
Stephen & Christine Sleboda

Bill & Joanne Sneider
Barbara Sonies
Deborah Tamny
Robert & Jean Teufel
Carolee & Dick Thatcher
Steven Uzupis
William & Kimberly Van Campen
Chalmer & Ruth Ann Van Horn
Donald & Vera Visscher
John & Carol Wagner
Robert G. & Rose Ann Wallace
Rev. & Mrs. Larry Waltz
Marty Walzer
Bud Webb
Harry & Becky Webster
Paul O. & Patricia Wentzler
Ernie Wheeland
Wheeland Lumber Co. Inc.
Mrs. William F. Williams
Dave Winton
Alex & Tracie Witter
Dr. & Mrs. Daniel Wolfe
Zimmer Insurance Agency Inc.

Letter from the Chairman: *The Promise of Spring – a time for change.*

As we embrace this season, change is evident within the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy. To understand and behold the future, we must reflect upon the past seasons.

During 2003, countless changes have occurred within the conservancy. Among them, one of the larger moves has been exactly that – we established a new headquarters for NPC’s operation, as noted so well in the previous newsletter by our staff.

The general membership has grown as well as corporate membership, and we have made many new friends within the twelve county area that we serve. As we start 2004, we are at a pivotal crossroads for the organization. As an organization, we have a decision to make. Do we maintain our current methods that record shows we have been successful and not disturb our comfort zone, or do we dare to raise the bar for the organization and take a leap to a new level of service within the communities we serve?

I believe along with the conservancy board that we must rise to the occasion and move to the next level of growth for the conservancy’s vitality in the years to come. The first step to accomplishing this goal is to formulate a strategic plan for the organization that will map out the critical challenges in time to come. Currently we are reviewing several proposals from other organizations to help us put into place plans for our bright and bold future. Contained within these plans will be new and fresh approaches for work plan priorities, membership growth, fundraisers, conservation easements, special appeals, and more. Truly, this is a milestone endeavor for the board and staff to accomplish during the third quarter of 2004.

Personally, the time I have served on the board and as Chairman has been a tremendous time of growth for me. The rewards that I have received from being involved on the board and as Chairman have been many. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the board for all of their efforts and the fine support that they have given the organization and myself. It has been an honor and a privilege to accept their vote of confidence in me over the last two years. I have been deeply moved by the high level of commitment that board members have made so that the organization would maintain ongoing success in all of its endeavors.

The staff has done an exceptional job of caring and serving the organization. We are truly fortunate and should be very thankful for the hard work and ongoing daily efforts of Reneé Carey, Julie Adams and Darlene Warner. I know I am.

I would like to extend gratitude on behalf of the

Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy’s board and myself to the general and corporate membership for their ongoing commitment to the organization. Your dedication is the catalyst to maintaining our very existence as a vital organization.

Finally, I personally want to thank my employer, PPL Corporation for caring about the communities we live and work in to extend their funding and support and for giving me the opportunity and time to get involved in community affairs and programs like the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy. To this end and the continued support from people and organizations as mentioned previously, the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy will continue to grow and prosper and change, just as Spring promises.

Editor’s Note: Chairman of the Board Kevin Drewencki will “retire” from the NPC board of directors in May of this year, after eight years of service, the last two of which he served as chairman.

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River Conservation continued from page 1.
the public with opportunities to learn more about the quality of water that flows by their community.

Note: If your municipality, organization, or group is working on a project, or is interested in beginning a project that is recommended by the Lower West Branch Susquehanna River Conservation Plan, remember that the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2) grant period will open in July and applications will be due sometime in October. It’s not too early to begin your grant application!! Contact NPC if you need more information.

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Volunteer Speakers Needed!

Did you make a resolution this year to get more involved and volunteer? We have a great opportunity for people who like to talk! The Education Committee has worked to develop a presentation to present to local groups and now we are looking to recruit speakers.

We often receive requests for a speaker to travel to local service club and professional association meetings to share information about NPC. These opportunities are a wonderful way to reach out to the community and get the word out about NPC. With a Speaker’s Bureau in place we can reach more people throughout the region, and help free up staff time for more program work. For more information or to sign up, please let us know!



NPC volunteers visit the Townsend Property in Lycoming County. This was NPC's first completed project-- we will see views of it on our bike trip August 15, 2004 (see article below).

“Canyon Vista/Flynn Property” Hike

Hike with us on September 18th to Canyon Vista for a view to behold! This hike will take place at World's End State Park in Sullivan County. After we hike to the vista which overlooks Loyalsock Creek and the valley, we will visit a rock labyrinth area for a bit of exploring. This is another opportunity to visit a property that we have been able to protect with your support. This property, also known as the Flynn property, was purchased by NPC at an auction and transferred to state ownership in the early 1990's. Visitors to World's End State Park can now enjoy the view that we protected with this purchase.

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This hike will be of moderate difficulty with an ascent to the vista at 1750 feet. We recommend that you wear sturdy hiking shoes and comfortable clothing. Also, bring plenty of water and a snack/packed lunch. For meeting time and location, please contact Julie Adams at 570-323-6222 or email jadams@npcweb.org.

Rail Trail Bike Trip Planned

This year we will partner with the Alpine Club to provide our members with the opportunity to ride the new section of the Pine Creek Rail Trail with guidance from NPC and Alpine Club member Charlie Schwarz. Charlie plans to lead the group on our trek starting in Waterville (or possibly Jersey Mills) and ending in Jersey Shore.

This ride will feature a view of the Townsend Property, the very first project NPC completed. The property is surrounded on three sides by State Forest land, has nearly a mile of frontage on Pine Creek, and contains meadows, mountain land, wetlands, and two small tributaries to Pine Creek. Acquisition and transfer of this property to state ownership assured protection of the property and public recreational access to Pine Creek.

For more information, contact the NPC office at 570-323-6222 or email jadams@npcweb.org.

Fishing Creek Sportsmen's Efforts

The Fishing Creek Sportsmen's Association in Columbia County may be known for their annual children's fishing derby, or their fish stocking efforts, but these are not the only projects this group has underway. The group now owns three properties that front or border Fishing Creek. Two of the properties are in Benton Township, while the third lies in Fishing Creek Township.

The Fishing Creek Sportsmen's Association (FCSA) bought its first property in 1995. This was the beginning of their efforts to manage properties in order to provide recreational access to Fishing Creek. Their most recent acquisition in January brought their acreage total to 87 acres. This translates into over one and one-half miles of creek frontage.

FCSA is working to learn more about the forest resources on these properties. They are also working with the Fishing Creek Watershed Association and the Columbia County Conservation District to repair damage done to the stream through flooding events over the years. FCSA contacted NPC to learn more about how they can ensure public access to these properties for future generations. Watch your newsletter for updates!

Funding Awarded continued from page 1. telephone calls and visits from property owners who wish to conserve their properties for the future.

With this growth, and with so many successful projects, we face a tremendous challenge in the future. As we look toward that future, we must have a clear vision of what it will mean to accomplish our mission. With a clear vision in place, we can set goals and priorities. This project is an investment not only of time and money, but also an investment in the long-term future of NPC.

The next step the board will take is to choose a consultant. Once the consultant is selected, the board will meet in late spring to begin planning. The strategic plan will be in draft form by fall of 2004.

In addition to the grant from the Williamsport-Lycoming Foundation, NPC continues to seek grants from other funders. Grant proposals written early this year are still in process. Board and staff members will continue to look for additional sources of funding for this project.

What will come out of this significant investment of time and money? Successful planning will result in an energized board and staff. This project will also result in clear priorities for our conservation work, which will mean a greater efficiency from our limited resources. With a refined vision and strategy for the coming years, NPC will be able to accomplish the maximum amount of program work for our donors dollars.



Water Trips Planned

Two fun experiences are planned for this summer on the Susquehanna. If you missed out last year, here is your chance to join us May 22, 2004 as we travel in Canoe Susquehanna's Big Canoes down the Susquehanna from Montoursville to Muncy. Last year's excursion was so popular, it sold out months before the trip, so register early to reserve your seat!

Cost of the trip is \$30/person and includes boat rental, life vest rental, and an expert guide in each canoe. This is a rain-or-shine event and registration is limited to 22 people. You may register by filling out the form in this newsletter and mailing it to the NPC office.

In addition to the picturesque canoe trip, we are planning a kayak outing. All skill levels welcome! This year, we are providing an opportunity for members and others (ages 13 and up) to learn a bit about paddling and enjoy a leisurely kayak trip down the Susquehanna to Muncy, starting in Montoursville. The trip will take place on Saturday, August 7, 2004.

The cost of the trip is \$40 which includes boat and life vest rentals, shuttle service and expert instruction. We will team up with Canoe Susquehanna to provide rentals and instruction to those of you who want to

Pine Creek Watershed Conservation Plan

The Endless Mountains RC&D is leading the effort to develop a river conservation plan for the entire Pine Creek watershed. Some members of the project steering committee include NPC, the Tioga County Conservation District, Lycoming College's CleanWater Institute, and residents of the watershed.

The group will be meeting at the end of April to review the questionnaires mailed to property owners, received from NPC's website, and distributed through local businesses. Thank you to all the folks who took the time to provide feedback on the watershed and ideas for how to maintain or enhance the area.

If you did not fill out a questionnaire, do not worry. There will be more opportunities for public input and involvement. If you have e-mail and want to be directly contacted about future meetings, please contact office@npcweb.org with your e-mail address.

experience the Susquehanna in a boat of your own.

To register for either trip, simply fill out the form in this newsletter. For more information, please contact Julie Adams at 570-323-6222 or jadams@npcweb.org.



2004 Paddling Events Registration Form

[Pre-registration is required]

To register, simply fill out the form and mail it, along with payment, to NPC at PO Box 2083, Williamsport PA 17703, or fax it to us at 570-321-1697.

All registrations will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis.

These trips are appropriate for those aged 13 and up.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Telephone: _____

	Number of participants	Cost	Total Due
Big Canoe Outing (May 22, 2004)	_____	\$30/person	_____
Kayak Trip (August 7, 2004)	_____	\$40/person	_____
		Amount Enclosed	_____

Payment information:

Check enclosed

Please charge my VISA/Mastercard

Account Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Name as it appears on card: _____

Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy
PO Box 2083
Williamsport, PA 17703
570-323-6222
<http://www.npcweb.org/>

Non-Profit Rate
PAID
Permit No. 107
Williamsport, PA
17701

Return Service Requested

2004 NPC Activities

April 17

Earth Day Celebration at Franco's Lounge

May 4

Annual Dinner at DiSalvo's Restaurant

May 22

Big Canoe Trip (limited to 22 people)

May 22

"Return to Jacoby Falls" Hike

August - Date TBA

Bloomsburg Member Gathering

August 7

Kayaking the Susquehanna (reserve space by May 1)

August 15

Rail Trail Bike Trip w/Alpine Club

September 18

"Canyon Vista/Flynn Property" Hike

September 27

7th Annual Autumn Classic Golf Tournament



"Return to Jacoby Falls" Hike

Since we closed the books on the Smithgall/Ging project, which ensured public access to Jacoby Falls, we continue to receive calls asking for information on how to reach the falls, where to park when visiting the falls, and how to access the property. Join us as we "Return to Jacoby Falls" in Lycoming County and hike to a special place in our area that is protected through the support of NPC members and friends.

Through the years we have visited Jacoby Falls at different times of the year. This year we plan to hike on May 22, so if the weather cooperates this spring, the water should be at a nice level to see the falls. If you would like to join us, contact Julie Adams at 570-323-6222 or jadams@npcweb.org for meeting time and location. We recommend that you wear sturdy hiking shoes, and bring plenty of water and a snack or packed lunch. This hike is free and open to the public.

Bloomsburg Member Reception Planned

As of our publication deadline, we are planning a Bloomsburg Member Reception that we hope will include other groups with similar conservation goals in the Columbia County area. We will keep you posted as the details are ironed out!

Mark Your Golf Calendars Now!

Plan to participate in the Seventh Annual Autumn Classic Golf Tournament on September 27, 2004. Last year's tournament was so successful we nearly sold out! Make your plans to attend early this year so you don't miss a great day of golf at the beautiful Williamsport Country Club. This is also a great advertising opportunity for our sponsors. Sponsorships include publicity at the event and publicity in our newsletter and in the Williamsport Sun-Gazette. For more information please contact Julie Adams at 570-323-6222.

